Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 00021 031234Z

10
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 098497
O 031157Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8938

S E C R E T CAIRO 0021

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR AO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 1376

1. ALTHOUGH GOE IS CELEBRATING OFFICIAL HOLIDAY TODAY, I WAS ABLE TO MEET WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING TO GIVE HIM THE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON ANGOLA. I RECALLED OUR PREVIOUS EXCHANGES ON ANGOLA AND NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER UNDERSCORES ONCE AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE ISSUE AND THE NEED FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE OAU SOLUTION THAT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT ALL FACTIONS. I ASKED FAHMY TO GET THE LETTER TO SADAT SOONEST. HE UNDERTOOK TO HAVE IT TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC AND SEND IT TO THE PRESIDENT AT MIT ABUL KOM SOME TIMER LATER TODAY.

2. FAHMY NOTED THAT THE MPLA HAS BEGUN A MAJOR MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN PAST FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO BE IN THE MOST ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION POSSIBLE BY THE TIME OAU MEETING TAKES PLACE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT GOE HAS RECEIVED WORD THAT SOVIETS ARE STAGING THEIR ASSISTANCE TO MPLA THROUGH BULGARIA. HE WAS NOT SURE HOW IT IS STAGED FROM THERE, BUT OPINED SECOND STAGING AREA MUST BE EITHER ADEN OR LAGOS.

3. FAHMY AGAIN NOTED EMBARRASSMENT WHICH SOUTH
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AFRICAN INTERVENTION POSES FOR AFRICAN STATES.

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HE AGREED WITH MY COMMENT THAT CUBANS AND SOVIETS ARE ALSO INVOLVED, BUT NOTED NEITHER OF THESE TWO HAVE CONNOTATION SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE IN AFRICAN EYES. FAHMY THOUGHT THAT IF PRESIDENT FORD WERE TO ISSUE A STATEMENT PUBLICLY CONDEMING SOUTH AFRICA (BY NAME) AS WELL AS CUBAN AND SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA, THIS COULD HAVE A VERY SALUTARY EFFECT AT UPCOMING OAU CONFERENCE. HE URGED THAT HIS IDEA BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.
EILTS

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